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T O P S E C R E T 241952Z JUN 72 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY
EYES ONLY VIA BUNKER CHANNELS
FROM: DR HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO : AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON
CITE: WHS2078

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS Review
Completed.

MORI/CDP
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JUNE 24, 1972

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM PEKING WHERE I WAS RECEIVED MOST HOSPITABLY. I HAVE NOTHING SPECIFIC TO OFFER WITH RESPECT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA BEYOND THE FACT THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE GENERALLY ENCOURAGING AND, BARRING NO GROSSLY AGGRESSIVE ACTS ON OUR PART, I BELIEVE WE CAN BE REASONABLY ASSURED THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN A HANDS OFF POSTURE WITH RESPECT TO OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED HAIG TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO SAIGON, DEPARTING HERE THURSDAY SO THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING YOU, THIEU AND GENERAL ABRAMS ABREAST OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, BOTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET SUMMIT, MY TRIP TO PEKING AND ACTIVITIES IN PARIS.

CONCERNING THE LATTER, THE OTHER SIDE HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO MEET PRIVATELY IN JULY PROVIDED THAT THE SECRET MEETING IS PRECEDED BY A PLENARY. WE WILL INFORM THEM MONDAY THAT WE WILL AGREE TO ATTEND A JULY 13 PLENARY, TO BE FOLLOWED RAPIDLY BY A MEETING ON JULY 19. WE WILL ALSO INSIST ON ONLY THE ONE PLENARY SESSION BEFORE THE PRIVATE MEETING OCCURS.

IT IS NOW PLANNED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE OUR DECISION TO RETURN TO THE PLENARY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 29TH. HE ALSO PLANS TO HAVE ZIEGLER MAKE THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN A ROUTINE WAY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH.

YOU SHOULD INFORM THIEU OF THE PRECEDING AND ESPECIALLY THE GAME PLAN WITH RESPECT TO THE NEGOTIATING SCENARIO, EMPHASIZING AGAIN THAT THIS SCENARIO IS PREDICATED UPON THE NEED TO MUSTER MAXIMUM DOMESTIC SUPPORT BY EMPLOYING A CONTINUING BLEND OF FORCEFUL ACTION ON THE BATTLEFIELD, COMBINED WITH DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY ON THE NEGOTIATING FRONT. THIEU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT HIM FULLY AND THAT AL HAIG WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH DETAILED AND EXPLICIT EXPLANATION OF THE STATE OF PLAY HERE, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE USSR AND PRC AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS IN PARIS. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON THE PRECISE DETAILS ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND OUR DECISION TO RETURN TO THE PLENARY AS THE SCHEDULE IS FIRMED UP THIS WEEK.

HAIG'S DETAILED PLANS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED THROUGH THIS AND REGULAR CHANNELS AS SOON AS HIS SCHEDULE IS SET.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.